

REPORT

Of the Committee on Private Land Claims in the case of the heirs and representatives of the late Don Miguel Eslava, accompanied with a bill for their relief.

JANUARY 21, 1824.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the memorial of Thomas F. Townsley, in behalf of the heirs of the late Don Miguel Eslava, praying the confirmation of the claims of said heirs, to sundry tracts and lots of land in the city and county of Mobile, conceded to the said Miguel Eslava by the Spanish authorities of Louisiana,

REPORT:

That they have had the said claims under consideration, and find them to consist of

- 1st. A concession made by Joaquin De Osorno, commandant and subdelegate of the intendency of Louisiana, at Mobile, to Miguel Eslava, dated the 25th February, 1803, of a tract of land containing 5,000 arpens, situate on Dog river, about a league from Mobile. This concession expresses to be in consideration of the public services of the grantee. The evidence shows that the said land has been occupied and cultivated from about the year 1803.
- 2d. A concession of a lot in the town of Mobile, made by the same commandant, to Thomas Price, dated the 25th February, 1803. Conveyed to Miguel Eslava, 3d March, 1803.
- 3d. A concession of a lot in the town of Mobile, made by Cayetano Perez to Miguel Eslava, dated 5th April, 1803, to be improved at the convenience of the grantee, or when circumstances permit.
- 4th. A concession of a tract of land south of the town of Mobile, containing 460 feet by 30 arpens, made by the same commandant, to Miguel Eslava, dated 23d June, 1802, to be improved at the convenience of the grantee, or when circumstances permit.

- 5th. A concession of a tract of land, containing 648 feet front on Mobile river, by twenty-six arpens in depth, made by the same commandant, to Miguel Eslava, dated 23d December, 1802; in consideration of the public services of the grantee.
- 6th. A concession of a tract of land, containing 230 feet front on Mobile river, by 3,200 feet in depth, made by the same commandant, to Miguel Eslava, dated the 14th April, 1803; proved to have been built upon, and occupied about the year 1803.
- 7th. A purchase of a lot of ground below Mobile, by Miguel Eslava, at the judicial sale of the estate of J. B. De Lusser, on the 30th December, 1788; which lot has been occupied by Miguel Eslava upwards of 30 years immediately preceding his death, as his place of residence.
- 8th. A concession of a lot in the town of Mobile, made by Cayetano Perez, commandant, &c. to Miguel Eslava, dated 21st December, 1802; to be improved at the convenience of the grantee, or when circumstances permit.

The testimony adduced before the committee, shows, that several of the abovementioned claims have been actually improved by the grantee, and that they are all in the occupancy of his heirs, the present claimants, and that there is no rival or conflicting claim to any of them. The accompanying documents also prove, that the grantee was, from the year 1782, to 1813, the date of the change of government at Mobile, an officer, employed in various responsible situations under the Spanish crown, to wit: the offices of storekeeper and commissary general, collector of the customs, and treasurer of the royal finances; and, in addition to the services rendered, and the legal merits of his claims, that, in consequence of his determination to remain under the American Government, he suffered heavy pecuniary losses, as is likewise shown by documents presented to the committee.

The committee are therefore of opinion, that the claims of the heirs of Miguel Eslava for the several tracts and lots of land abovementioned, are such as in justice ought to be confirmed by the United States; and they have accordingly reported a bill providing for their confirmation.